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THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

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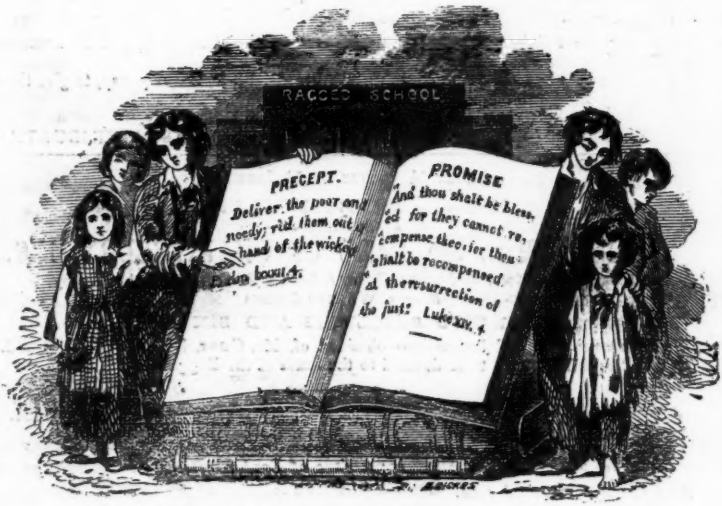

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i, 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a Parcel of Shirts, &c., from Mrs. Reade, and a Parcel of Fifty Articles of Clothing for Perkins' Rents School from the Highgate Ladies' Working Party, per Miss Bodkin.

Parcels of Books, Magazines, &c., for forming School Libraries, and left-off Wearing Apparel, for Distribution to the Children and for our Industrial Classes, will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. J. G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,
1, *Exeter Hall, W.C.*

Mr. GENT will be happy to receive donations towards carrying into effect the desire of Lord Shaftesbury, as expressed in the following note:—

"24, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.
"*July* 18, 1864.

"DEAR GENT,

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The Committee are publishing an edition of this popular Portrait expressly for Ragged School Teachers, at One Shilling each copy.

THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND SECRETARIES will be held at 56, Old Bailey, on FRIDAY, 26th August, 1864, at Half-past Seven, a.m. Cards of Admission may be had on application to Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, which will denote the subject of discussion. "As iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the countenance of man his friend."

TESTIMONIAL
TO
THE REV. DR. GUTHRIE,
OF EDINBURGH.

At a Meeting held at the City Chambers, Edinburgh, on the 27th May, 1864, the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST *in the Chair,*

It was unanimously resolved,

"That as the Rev. Dr. Guthrie has, under medical advice, been compelled to retire from all public duties, this opportunity shall be taken of presenting to him a Testimonial in acknowledgment of his personal worth and public services as a large-hearted Christian philanthropist, and that for this purpose contributions should now be raised to constitute a capital sum to be invested for behoof of himself and his family."

A Committee to carry out the preceding resolution, with power to add to their number, and to appoint Local Committees, was thereafter nominated, and the following, among others, have agreed to act:—

The Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST of EDINBURGH.
His Grace the Duke of ARGYLL, K.T.
The Right Hon. the Earl of DALHOUSIE, K.T.
The Right Hon. the Earl of SOUTHESK.
The Right Hon. the Earl of CARLISLE, K.G.
The Right Hon. the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, K.G.
The Right Hon. the Earl of KINTORE.
The Right Hon. and Right Rev. the Bishop of LONDON.
The Right Rev. the Bishop of ST. DAVID'S.
The Right Hon. Lord BELHAVEN, K.T.
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Sir DAVID BREWSTER, Bart., K.H., D.C.L., LL.D.

&c. &c. &c.

The following Gentlemen have consented to act as a Committee for London:—

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Robert Hanbury, Esq., M.P.
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Hon. Secretary.—ALEXANDER H. WHYTT, Esq., 69, Lombard Street.

Subscriptions will be received by the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary to the London Committee. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be crossed "Fuller, Banbury, & Co.".

The subscriptions will be advertised weekly in the Edinburgh newspapers. Undernoted are a few of those already intimated.

G. McM. Torrance, Esq.	£100	0	0
Thomas J. Boyd, Esq.	50	0	0
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Rev. Dr. Barclay	20	0	0
Dr. William Cumming	50	0	0
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A Friend	100	0	0
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Donations thankfully received either by Mr. J. G. GENT, Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall; or

7, Albion Terrace, Commercial Road, E. W. H. HATCHARD, *Hon. Sec.*

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Mr. L. Holman, Laundry, 35, Park Place, Brighton, says:—"It saves time and labour, doing the work of four women."

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J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

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References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

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No. 1, 200, Euston Road, N.W. Exclusively for friendless young women of good character.

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No. 3, 5, Parson's Green, Fulham, S.W. Reformatory.

No. 4, 18, Cornwall Place, Holloway Road, N.

No. 5, 51, New Cross Road, S.E. Reformatory.

These Homes will accommodate at least 110 inmates.
Total number of poor young women admitted to the benefits of this Institution, 1,150.
Young women may be admitted at any time, room and funds permitting.
The entire work is dependent upon voluntary support.
The Committee appeal to every Christian to help them according to their means, in order to save the outcast from perishing.

Contributions in Post-office Orders, Cheques, &c., will be thankfully received by
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Papers, Original and Selected.

EXTENSION OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL MOVEMENT.

An important Conference of the leaders in the Ragged School movement was held in March last year, on the need for and the means of extending their operations. From the carefully prepared Report then presented (see our volume for 1863, p. 75), it appeared that, in eleven districts, fairly selected as average specimens of our work-field, with a juvenile population between the ages of three and twelve, of 13,796, only 5,696 attended any kind of school, pay or free. It thus appeared that, with all our appliances, there were more children out of school that had been gathered therein. Regarding the specimen districts solely in a Ragged School point of view, it was found that either within those districts or sufficiently contiguous thereto as to permit the children living therein to attend the adjacent schools, there were 34 Ragged Schools. These included 6,135 Sunday scholars, 4,574 day scholars, and 1,809 week-night scholars. That a large proportion of the non-attendance at school was not produced through want of accommodation, was proved by the fact that in the 34 Ragged Schools there was ample space for 1,850 day scholars, and for 3,809 night scholars.

Presuming that these statistics applied to London as a whole, it led to the painful inference that there were at least 25,000 children of the destitute or the depraved class out of, but who ought to have been attracted into, existing Ragged Schools. Thus was the painful fact revealed, for every child in our schools there was one outside; or, in other words, that our work was only half done.

Whatever be the cause, it is saddening thus to know that, after twenty years' assiduous and prayerful labour, there are so many of the ragged class still ungripped by the strong hand of Christian kindness. Like those inside, those who are outside our schools have the same sins and the same sorrows, the same powers for good or evil, and, above all, the same eternal destinies. And seeing that too many of their parents are steeped to the lips either in poverty or vice, we may be sure that if we do not teach them the devil will. Sleep we may, but Satan never! But, alas! the whole history of

Christendom proves that, instead of buckling on their armour for the great conflict with social vice and misery, the bulk of Christians have folded their arms and bivouaced on the field, instead of being engaged in the forefront of the battle.

Two facts render these recent revelations of our position most painful to those who have the oversight of this movement for the moral and social reclamation of the lower strata of society.

I. The population of London increases, by birth, about 2,000 per week. Allowing for the death of babes, 50,000—or the average number of a large city—is added every year to this Babel of ours. If, then, we cannot do more than half our work now, how can we possibly expect to do it when after another ten years' interval we shall have 500,000 more souls to point out the road to the eternal city? It is thus seen that if the work of to-day is deferred till to-morrow, we shall have to-morrow's work to do in addition; and so utterly fail. Pharaoh said, "to-morrow" (Exod. viii. 10); but when that to-morrow dawned he found it to be a day too late.

II. From facts which we personally tested in eight Ragged Schools, in different parts of London, it appears that a moiety of our parasites are of provincial origin. Hence we have not only to contend with the vice of London growth, but with those indigenous to distant counties, to say nothing of those imported by the natives of the green isle. There are also as regular residents in London 60,000 Germans, 30,000 French, and 6,000 Italians, too many of these being the offscouring of their respective countries. Facts like these prove that London might become a great Gospel Pharos; and that if we have a healthy Christian population, well housed and sound principled, a moral influence will be borne to surrounding countries before which the prowess of its armies and navies will pall. For if a free people are to remain free, and to exemplify to the whole world the possibility of a self-governed people being orderly and loyal, they must first become freemen of the Lord.

The statistical facts before referred to, as well as that other equally ascertained one, that, during winter evenings thousands of scholars are excluded from our Sunday Schools, not for want of space, but for want of teachers, led to the earnest consideration of the Ragged School Union Committee. Their great aim was to see whether it is possible *at once* to meet these spiritual claims, or whether they should rest content when the great work they have undertaken is only half done. Non-progress, however, is ever a synonym for retrocession. Hence point us out a man who does

not go forward, and we will show you one who will speedily go back. So was it with the Jews, they were not aggressive for Christ—rested in quiet content when they ought to have fought for their Master; and, as a result of their criminal ease, we find that "the children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, *turned back* in the day of battle" (Psalm lxxviii. 9). May God in his infinite mercy grant that this may not be the pre-carved epitaph of any Ragged School.

But in order to avert the calamity of stopping short with half our work yet to be done, the Central Society appointed a Sub-Committee to collect the statistics of the affiliated institution, and to see whether it be possible by any, and by what means, to reach the outlying population. Restricting the statistics to Sunday Schools, and as they illustrate more pointedly the missionary character of Ragged Schools, we have ever placed them in the first rank. It would seem that there is space for 22,059 more Sunday scholars, either in closed or partially filled school-rooms. There is, at present, an aggregate Sunday attendance of 24,170 If, then, we filled our school-rooms twice on the Lord's day—and what we can do gives the law of what we ought to try to do—then we should have 46,229 Sunday scholars, either in the afternoon or evening.

Another statistical fact was presented, even more painful in its character. Thus it was found that, in the four divisions, there are 20 school-rooms closed on Sunday afternoon, which, if opened, would accommodate 3,980 scholars, and that 35 were *not used for any purpose* on Sunday evening, supplying space for 5,502 scholars. Thus it appears that in the 55 buildings which are not used, either on Sunday afternoon or evening, no less than 9,482 children could be taught, and that with little increased cost to the local funds.

Impressed by the sense of their responsibility as overseers of the Ragged School movement, the Central Society considered that it was not only desirable, but even essential, to the vitality of the system to bring these facts—or rather these figures, which *are* facts—under the prayerful consideration of their fellow-helpers. Instead of, however, convening a large aggregate meeting, where to consider each individual school would be a sheer impossibility, they summoned eight district meetings, two in each division of London, and thus the representation of each local institution was able to indicate its special needs, and the best means of filling up any gap in the machinery. The following circular, in which the

object of the parent society was indicated, was issued to every connected Ragged School, namely :—

"The subject of School Extension has lately been under the serious consideration of the Committee of the Ragged School Union, who have appointed a special Sub-Committee, for the purpose of instituting further inquiries, and especially with a view to ascertain what plans for extension should be recommended for adoption in each particular section of the Metropolis.

"The Sub-Committee are desirous for this subject to be brought under the consideration of the Delegates and Officers of Ragged Schools at a series of Conference Meetings to be held in June and July, in the following eight Localities, viz., Lambeth and Bermondsey, Westminster and Marylebone, Shadwell and Bethnal Green, and Islington and Holborn.

"By holding divisional Meetings more time will be secured for the full investigation of the subject, than if a Conference of a larger character were held in a central part of London; and it is hoped that these Local Meetings will tend to elicit the special necessities of the respective localities, as well as to make known the facilities that exist in the school buildings in those neighbourhoods for meeting those necessities. To these Conference Meetings the Sub-Committee invite the Delegates and Officers of the Ragged School of which you are the Secretary, and for whose admission to the Meeting six Tickets are enclosed, in which you will please to insert the names of the persons that may be appointed to attend. It will be esteemed a favour if you will let me know at your earliest convenience the names of the persons the Sub-Committee may expect to represent your School.

"The following is the arrangement for the Meetings:—

Lambeth Conference, to be held in			Robert Street School, New Cut,	on June 22.
Bermondsey	„	„	Magdalen Street,	June 24.
Westminster	„	„	New Tothill Street,	June 27.
Marylebone	„	„	Gray's Yard,	June 29.
Shadwell	„	„	Smith Place, Commercial Road,	July 5.
Bethnal Green	„	„	Bacon Street,	July 11.
Islington	„	„	Rufford's Buildings,	July 13.
Holborn	„	„	Field Lane,	July 20.

"It will greatly facilitate the object the Sub-Committee have in view in holding these Conference Meetings, if the friends of your School would come prepared with information on the following points, viz.:—

I. What localities in your section require new Ragged Schools to be formed?

II. What School buildings now in use can be further employed by opening them on—

1. Sunday Afternoon.
2. Sunday Evening.
3. Week Days.
4. Week Evenings.

III. What efforts can be made in your section to increase the number of Voluntary Teachers?"

In response to this invitation, about ninety schools were represented at the various conferences. The meetings, we are glad to say, were of a truly practical character, there being no talking for the mere sake of talking, but the speakers, like the practical men they were, were brief and to the point. In connection with the

suggestions made by the Central Society, promises were made to endeavour to open many schools which are now closed on Sunday afternoon or evening, and especially to induce any children of their Day Schools, who are absentees, to attend Sunday School. This can be done most effectually by the paid teachers calling over the list of names on Monday morning, and, by inquiries, ascertaining why the absentees did not attend Sunday School on the preceding Lord's day. Spots where new institutions are still required were pointed out, and the measures needful for their establishment indicated. And, above all, a spirit of Christian sympathy was evoked in labourers in contiguous districts, which, we doubt not, will tend to concerted action, and thus lead to the full occupancy of the waste places of their respective districts.

But, unhappily, one note, in the minor key, ran through the remarks of the delegates, whether they came from the far east, or the more wealthy west, nay, the richer the district, the poorer seemed to be the working staff. The one cry of our earnest fellow-workers was this—WHERE AND HOW CAN TEACHERS BE OBTAINED? Many of these stated that they laboured thrice on Sunday rather than that their work should fail for want of agency, but *they* could not do more, and the wonder is that they can do so much. Yes, truly, now, as in the days of the Son of man, "the harvest is plenteous," but where are the reapers? Yet we cannot think that all are now steadily labouring to whom Christ hath said, "Son, go work this day in my vineyard." We imagine when we regard our crowded congregations that now, as then, some are still standing idle in the market-place, whom the Lord would have working and toiling in this great world work-field. Oh that they would awake to the most precious grace—next to that of personal salvation—of being invited to co-operate with God in rebuilding ruined souls! For, whatever be our specific sphere of labour in Ragged Schools—be it Bible-class, Parents' Meeting, or Ragged Church—still the sole object of every earnest labourer is this, to help Jesus to fill heaven!

None of our statements have been made in a tone of murmuring, for, rather, we only point to the unperformed work in the prayerful hope that the solemn fact that our work is only half done may lead to these waste places being speedily occupied by faithful evangelists. Nor, indeed, would a tone of complaint be warranted, seeing the *heart* that so many teachers throw into this goodly work. Nor has the area of work diminished, for during the past

seven years alone, the number of institutions has increased from 157 to 175. During the same period, too, the Sunday School attendance has increased from 19,946 to 24,631, being an increase of 4,691. Thus the week-day scholars, which were then 20,512, are now 26,730. Nor has our work among adults retrograded, for whereas seven years ago there were only 1,250 members of our Parents' Meetings, there are now 2,630. We may well, then, in a spirit of adoring gratitude, exclaim—"What hath God"—not man—"wrought!"

Thankful, then, we are that our work *is* half done, yet still we want to see the shadow cast by the work not yet done, at once removed. To do this, we must become inoculated with the zeal of Christ for the enlightenment of souls immersed in a moral darkness that may be felt. Thus what was prophesied of him will become a photograph of us in our lower measure, "the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up" (Psalm lxix. 9). May grace help us thus to agonize for the spiritual birth of the forlorn and the outcast, "till the day dawn, and the shadows flee away." Then shall we stand a great company—sower and reaper—in the presence of Him who anointed us for this service of love, all the more rejoicing in him, and in each other, because we believed and acted on Christ's assurance, "I have much people in this city."

RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION ROOMS, LIVERPOOL,

IN CONNECTION WITH GREAT GEORGE STREET CHAPEL.

In connection with the effort recently made to increase the interest which the more wealthy churches of our large towns take in the work of Ragged Schools, we have pleasure in drawing the attention of all friends of Home Missions to a step recently taken in Liverpool, whereby several agencies for the spiritual and temporal improvement of the ignorant and forsaken, hitherto carried on in different buildings, have now been united under one roof, with all the advantages of co-operation and support which fellow-workers in the same great cause can give to one another.

The congregation of which the Rev. Enoch Mellor is now the minister, feeling anxious to erect some permanent memorial of the esteem in which they held their late friend and pastor, the Rev. Dr. Raffles, hit upon the happy plan to which we have referred. The Ragged Schools in connection with this church are the oldest Sunday Evening Ragged Schools in the town, and had long been seriously inconvenienced for want of room to supply the increasing demands on their space; it therefore became necessary to find new schools, and whilst this was being done the plan was enlarged and a Mission Chapel and Workmen's Club were added.

The building, which is a very plain one, is situated in Greenland Street, St. James Street, and stands on 720 yards of land, having frontage to three streets, by which good light and easy ventilation is obtained. The district is a very low one, and offers a very wide field for the exertions of a Christian church. The plan of the building is as follows:—The upper portion is devoted to the preaching-room, capable of holding 600 persons; and also a smaller room for the accommodation of a Mothers' Meeting, connected with a female missionary's operations; a good committee-room is also situated on this floor. Below, approached by a flight of six steps, is a commodious room, 52 feet by 45 feet, which is used for a Workmen's Club. This excellent movement is so well understood, and has been so fully described in connection with the Institution in Duck Lane, Westminster, that we need not further allude to it here. It will be sufficient to say that the accommodation is on a most ample scale, and will, we trust, make a decided mark on the character of the working-classes of the neighbourhood. A large bagatelle-board forms a strong attraction to this part of the building. A good lavatory is provided; and there are two smaller rooms for classes and other purposes connected with the club. The basement is appropriately devoted to the schools, inasmuch as it is the improvement of the children of this generation which must form the basis of elevation in the future. The school-room is very large, and contained on the opening night, May 1st, 610 children, with a good staff of teachers. This is a great sphere for work, and great good may be done, with God's blessing, by earnest devotion to the spread of his Gospel. Three class-rooms are behind this for infant and senior classes; that for the former will accommodate 120 children. The entrances for boys and girls are distinct; indeed, one of the features of this building is, that each set of rooms has a separate entrance, so that no confusion can be caused when all are in operation at the same time. A large Sunday School for a better class of children is held in the basement on Sunday morning and afternoon.

At the meeting held last May for the opening of these new rooms a Report was read, of which the following is an abstract:—The school was opened by teachers of the Great George Street School in October, 1846, in Cleveland Square, and had 118 scholars. On the third evening the numbers had increased to 320, whilst at least 500 were excluded from want of accommodation. The school throughout its history had been subject to the painful drawback of repletion and overflow. The Committee trusted that the size of the new rooms would place the School beyond the reach of such difficulties in the future. From the first night that the School had been opened to the present time there had been a great want of teachers, and the new ground would increase the demand upon their powers. To meet the increased want the Committee looked to their friends for help. The rooms were large, and if the Committee had to refuse admittance to any it would be for want of helpers, and that, it was hoped, would not be the case. During the last year a very useful class had been carried on with great success on week-day evenings, at which sewing had been taught to a large number of girls. That was a very important branch of education to those who were hoping to go out to service, and was capable of much wider extension. Those who had gone to service numbered 77. The Committee were thankful to report that

throughout the past winter the attendance of teachers at the week-day school had been large and regular, which had produced a marked improvement in the conduct of the children, and gave great hope for the new ground they were about to occupy. The following was a statement of the average attendance during the year:—Sundays, summer, 182 scholars, 13 teachers; winter, 267 scholars, 17 teachers. Week-nights, summer, 75 scholars, 3 teachers; winter, 108 scholars, 7 teachers. The financial statement showed that (including a deficit of £7 17s. 8d. from 1862) the expenses during the year had amounted to £80 7s. 3d., and had exceeded the receipts by £2 14s. 9d.

THE EMIGRATION OF SHOE-BLACKS.

THE friends interested in the welfare of the Ragged Scholars and Shoeblacks will be pleased to learn that the six youths who lately left London for Canada, to seek their fortune in that colony, have succeeded in finding suitable openings for their services. Mr. Buchanan has for several years rendered most invaluable services to our emigrants on their arrival at Quebec. That gentleman, under date of June 24th, writes to the Secretary of the East London Shoe-black Society as follows:—

"The six boys referred to in your letter of the 13th of May arrived here on the 9th inst., and I forwarded them at once to the care of Mr. Wills, the Emigration Agent at Ottawa. Mr. W. writes me on the 20th inst.—'My report of the six boys who arrived here on the 11th inst. I will forward you in a few days. I consider I have never provided for a party of boys better than these.'

"I was in hopes that I should have received this report in time to send you by this steamer, but I do not like to put off any longer advising you of their safe arrival and disposal. I send this without it. I am in hopes you will hear from the boys themselves, and this will be more satisfactory."

On the following day Mr. Buchanan sent the following note addressed to the Secretary:—

"GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION OFFICE,
"*Quebec, 25th June*, 1864.

"DEAR SIR,—I wrote you yesterday by our steamer. I now enclose you Mr. Wills' report respecting your boys, which will inform you how they have been provided for. I also send an extract from Mr. Wills' report as to the treatment some boys received who came out last spring *vid* the United States. I should be glad if you would make it known among any of the Society who send the boys by that route.

"Yours, &c.,
"A. C. BUCHANAN,
"*C. E. Agent.*"

The following is the report of Mr. Wills to which Mr. Buchanan refers:—

"GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION OFFICE, OTTAWA,
"*22nd June*, 1864.

"A. C. BUCHANAN, Esq.,
"*Government Chief Emigration Agent, Quebec.*

"DEAR SIR,—I would most respectfully beg to lay before you the following Report of the disposal of the six boys who were sent out by the Guardians of the East London Shoe-black Society's Refuge and Industrial School:—

"William Hamilton is in the employment of Thomas Patterson, merchant grocer, as storeman, at the rate of 5 dols. per month. City of Ottawa.

"John Dee is employed as shop boy, or clerk, by Mr. Eddy, at 40 dols. salary, for the term of one year. Village Hull, Canada East.

"Thomas Dowling apprenticed himself to Mr. W. Brown, a barber, for the term of two years, at the following rate of wages:—1st six months, at 3 dols. per month; 2nd six months, at 3 dols. 20 c. per month; 3rd six months, at 3 dols. 75 c. per month; 4th six months, at 4 dols. 25 c. per month. City of Ottawa.

"John Williams lives with Jacob Dennison, furrier and hatter, as clerk, at the salary of 30 dols. per annum. City of Ottawa.

"Thomas Suffe is in the employment of S. C. Mekow, proprietor of the British Hotel, Aylmer, Canada East, at a salary of 6 dols. per month.

"Alfred Millest.—This boy I got into the employment of Mr. Eddy, of Hull, with whom he lived until yesterday. Mr. Eddy was very much pleased with the lad, but he was, unfortunately, too small, and consequently too weak, to do the work assigned to him to do. This evening I had him forwarded to a gentleman who lives private at Aylmer. He desired that I would forward him the lad, and that he would take him a week on trial, and if he suited him that he would call upon me, and enter into an arrangement for the boy.

"Having called this day upon the gentlemen with whom those boys live, with a view of ascertaining from them information respecting the conduct of the boys, I am much pleased to have to inform you that in every instance those gentlemen spoke in the highest terms of the lads, and are very much pleased with them. I may mention that those boys were not such as would suit the requirements of our farmers; however, I may make bold to say, that I have done better for them than to put them into the employment of the very best of farmers. I have done all that it was possible for me to do; it now remains with the boys themselves to decide their fortunes. That I will always interest myself on their behalf you may rely on. God grant that they may prove honest lads, and if they are, there is nothing to prevent them from advancing themselves. If they were my own children, I could not have disposed of them to better advantage.

"I beg to apologize for not having reported sooner. My reason was that I wished to have the boy Millest first provided for in a satisfactory manner.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"W. J. WILLS.

"Certified true Copy,
"A. C. BUCHANAN,
"Chief Agent."

The following is the extract to which Mr. Buchanan refers in his letter of June 25, respecting the treatment some young emigrants received who went to Canada by way of the United States, and which clearly points out the danger of that route, and, in fact, the great danger of youths being allowed to go to the United States at all during the present civil war:—

"I beg to draw your attention to the fact, that, in almost every case, emigrants who have come *viâ* New York, complain very much of the manner in which they have been imposed upon, and have been misdirected by interested Yankee runners and steam-boat and railway agents. Many of the emigrants who were destined for Ottawa were sent the roundabout way of Niagara Suspension Bridge, instead of coming direct to Odnesburg. I believe that I am justified in saying that many who were destined for Canada never reached our shores, through the means of the kid-

napping style that is carried on at present in the United States. Two boys who were sent from the Middlesex Industrial School, Yeltham, Hounslow, London, *vid* New York for Canada, were accompanied by Yankee loafers from New York to Odnesburg, who used their exertions in every possible shape to induce the lads to enlist, and, so intent were these kidnappers on their prey, that their last fruitless effort was made upon the ferry-boat between Odnesburg and Prescott. They there offered the lads 500 dols. as a bounty to enlist, but, thank Providence and the kind counsel of the chaplain of the Institution which sent them here, that the poor boys, for indeed poor they were, were proof against this large sum of money.

(Signed) "W. J. WILLS, Agent.

"Certified true Copy,
"A. C. BUCHANAN,
"Chief Agent."

RAGGED SCHOOLS IN NAPLES.

UNDER the heading of "Popular Education in Naples," the *Times*, of July 5, 1864, stated that, "Shortly after the annexation of Naples to Northern Italy, an attempt was made to enlist the sympathies of ladies both in Italy and England in an effort to open schools for the instruction of the poor in Southern Italy. In an address to his countrywomen, General Garibaldi strongly commended the scheme, and it was warmly taken up in this country by a number of ladies, who collected subscriptions, and transmitted them to Italy. These efforts have not been unavailing. One school in connection with them was opened in 1863, at No. 13, in the Strada Medina, Naples, at which, for the first time in that city, an attempt was made to instruct the poor without reference to creed. All doctrinal questions were excluded from the lessons taught, and no priest was allowed to enter the school. It was found, however, that Catholic children readily sought admittance, and that the advantage of the instruction given was very generally appreciated. A report of a recent examination of the school appears in the *Popolo d'Italia*, a Neapolitan newspaper. There were present between sixty and seventy pupils, a number of whom were dressed in clothes made out of materials sent to them from England, but made up in the school. The progress the children had made was remarkable. Many who, on entering the school a few months before, neither knew their own names nor the names of the streets they lived in, and who of course knew nothing of the alphabet, had been taught to read and write with considerable fluency. The more advanced pupils had made some progress in grammar, geography, and arithmetic. In connection with the school in the Strada Medina a class has been opened for the instruction of sewing-girls. They only attend during the interval allowed them for dinner, and yet even with this short time at their command they have made surprising progress. The promoters of the school are now very anxious to combine with it industrial education. No institution for this purpose exists at present in Naples, and the want is much felt. The English ladies, to whom the school has been so much indebted, are still exerting themselves to collect subscriptions, and they hope ultimately to be able to open similar institutions in the Neapolitan provinces. Contributions are received by Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, & Co., Pall Mall East."

SCHOOL OR PRISON?

Sam Jones Bill Robinson, and Joe Smith meet in the street.

Bill. I say, Sam, how smart your boy is—so clean, and, I hear, very clever.

Sam. Yes, he goes to school every day, and has done so many a year. He can read, write, and sum, and do a good many such things; but he must soon be put out to work. Bill, why don't you send your children to school? education is cheap enough now.

Bill. Well, there, I know I ought, the children are getting no good in the streets; but sometimes they pick up a few pence, and they are sometimes useful at home. I fear one of these days they will be getting into trouble, and the police will have them. I wish my children were as good as yours. I can't think how you manage, and what makes you so mighty particular in keeping your children at school.

Sam. I think, Bill, children should go to school as you and I go to work. They have as good a right to be educated as they have to be fed, or as we have to our wages; and I think it a downright robbery on the children to keep them from school. Time lost can't be made up to them.

Bill. That's true. My eldest chap would have got a situation t'other day if he had been anything of a scholar. But it can't be helped now; he must rough it, as I've done, and get on as well as he can without learning. I've missed many a good situation as I was no scholar. But he isn't near so bad a boy as Joe Smith's, who is always prowling about, picking up bones, running errands for anybody, larking, and wandering about; and I shouldn't be surprised to hear one day that he is in the station-house or the prison.

Sam. Now tell me, Bill, who 's to blame, Joe Smith or his boy?

Bill. I s'pose Joe's wrong. He ought to bring up his children better. But what's to be done, if the father won't send and keep them at school? It is only reasonable to expect that they should turn out badly, and many of them should get into gaol. But, Sam, I should like to have a bit of your politics—what you think the big chaps of the State ought to do in the matter.

Sam. Let us see. They make us feed our children, why shouldn't they make us teach them? The children have as good a right to learning as to victuals, and one is a vast deal cheaper than t'other; besides, I don't see why our neighbour Joe Smith should bring up bad boys on purpose to spoil our good uns. He ought to do his duty as a father, by keeping his boys at school, then his would be as good as mine. Joe thinks he can't afford it, or spare the boys; but he can. Lor! when we have a mind, it's wonderful what we can do! I'm inclined to make a man do for his children what he ought, and I'll stand to it that he ought to send them to school. I'd compel him—I'd serve the fathers out if they didn't. Children, though poor, needn't be ignorant and wicked; besides, they ought to have a chance of getting on in the world; and if I had my way they should have it.

Bill. My children, I'm sorry to say it, are getting the upper hand of me; but I should like to know how you would keep them at school, and prevent their mouching. We can't be always after them. We have our work to do.

Sam. I have long thought them "peelers" had better be employed in

taking children to school instead of to gaol. Vast deal better for the poor when the gaoler has nothing to do with their children. The police, whenever they see children about during school hours, might make them show tickets of leave from their schoolmaster, and if they couldn't do so, take them to school, and tell us about it.

Bill. That's a capital idea; that gets over my difficulty; and whenever that's done, if not before, I'll send my children to school, for there will be some chance then of keeping them there. Education is a fine thing!

Sam. But, Bill, it will be a long time before the little uns are sent to school as they should be, unless we all agree upon the matter. There is Joe Smith coming down the street: let us call him. Holloa! Joe!

Joe. Well, what's up now?

Bill. We are talking of children's being educated, and we think their parents should be compelled to send them to school, whether they will or no.

Joe. Ah! I suppose you'll blame me for all what's happened this morning. My oldest chap has been taken up by the police, and the magistrates have sent him to prison for a month, and after that to a reformatory for four years, and mean to make me pay two shillings a week towards his maintenance. They might have been satisfied with punishing me without damaging the boy's character for life by sending him to prison; but they say the law don't allow that. Now, if I had sent him to the parochial or the national school, none of this would have happened. I believe we shall never do what we ought unless we are made, and I wish the magistrates had made me keep my boy at school instead of sending him to gaol. I've had very little else but trouble and disgrace through keeping him at home. My missus always kept on about it, and now the boy 's got into prison there's no pacifying her.

Sam. Well now, that's just what Bill and I think; and if you'll agree we'll ask the member of Parliament at the next election whether he thinks parents ought to be allowed to rob their children of education, and ask if he will prevent them. We will support the rights of children.*

"SOMEBODY'S BOY."

Ah, yes! the veriest wreck that skulks along the by-paths of society once belonged to somebody; and human nature, selfish though it be, is too much bound into one family, and interwoven into a net-work of common sympathies and feelings, not to thrill under this consideration, if faithfully pondered and applied. "The good man," says an eloquent preacher, "does not ask who the sufferer is, what is his name, or religion; he sees that he is a man, he feels that he is a neighbour, and he lifts him up upon his knee, and dresses his wounds, and relieves his wants; and the Saviour says to us, every one, 'Go thou and do likewise.' I love the spirit of the good woman who was running to help some poor boy that was flung well-nigh lifeless upon the road, and her neighbours said, 'Why do you run thus? he is not your boy.' 'No,' she said, 'but he is somebody's boy.' That is as it should be. 'One

* Packets of the above, in the form of a handbill, may be had of the Rev. W. C. Osborn, South Hill House, Bath.

touch of nature makes the whole world kin.' And this principle," adds the writer, "should be kept in view pre-eminently with the young. Look back to the Israelites. It was one of the chief accusations brought against them in their idolatries, that they caused the children to pass through the fire to Moloch. We all remember how, when the Lord of life and glory was upon earth, he gathered the children around him, those whom his disciples would have kept back, and said, 'Suffer the children to come unto me, and forbid them not.'"

LOCAL CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

THE FIRST OF THE EIGHT DISTRICT CONFERENCES to which we have already made reference in the leading article of this Number, was held on June 22nd, at Robert Street, New Cut, when delegates from eight southern Ragged Schools attended; Mr. F. CUTHBERTSON in the chair.

After prayer,

The CHAIRMAN said: The subject for consideration had been considered at a conference of the Ragged School Union a most important subject, and therefore I thought it would have brought a larger number of friends together. There are quite as many children out as in the schools, and it is our duty to use every effort to bring them in. We ought to have some 30,000 more than we have, and our object now is to see by what means we can bring them in, for there are a large number of Sunday Schools which will hold a great many more; in fact, some are not one quarter filled. If we exist as a Ragged School Union we must do the work. I look upon it as the greatest honour to be enabled to call together the poor and wretched in this way, and if we neglect to perform it I consider we have a great responsibility attending us. We therefore wish to confer with friends in the different districts, and to see if we cannot induce others to co-operate.

Mr. GENT, on being called upon by the Chairman, said that the question of school extension had been under the serious consideration of the Committee of the Ragged School Union, who were desirous that the same subject should be considered by all the friends identified with the London Ragged Schools. For this purpose it was arranged to hold a series of eight conference meetings in different parts of London, in the present and following months. The subject for special consideration at each would be—"*The means needful to adopt to bring under instruction a larger number of neglected and destitute children than at present attend the Ragged Schools.*" To each meeting would be invited the representatives of about twenty schools, and the Conference would be held in a school-room that seemed most central and convenient for the school friends invited to it. The Committee had evidences that while the Ragged Schools of London were operating upon about 30,000 scholars at the present time, there were as many more children of the class to attend Ragged Schools, but who attended no school whatever. The evidence they possessed had been derived from school authorities and from city missionaries, who had taken certain districts of London, and from a house-to-house visitation had gathered most important, and in some cases most astounding, facts. A case in point is the district in which we hold this meeting. From the reports of two excellent missionaries who visited the houses of this locality, I am informed that in but a very limited area there were 3,580 children resident, from 3 to 12 years of age; of this number 1,127 were ascertained to be scholars in some school, and as many as 2,293 were found to go to no school whatever. It was not known whether the remaining 160 children went

to school or not. It will be thus seen that in this district, instead of for one scholar in school there is a child in the streets going to no school, there are two children in the street going to no school for every scholar at school. This is serious, and demands the careful attention of every teacher and philanthropist of the neighbourhood. In the seventeen schools invited to this meeting, the attendance of scholars on Sundays is more than 2,000; in the Day Schools 1,700, and in the Evening 900; but the seventeen schools have accommodation for nearly 4,000 children. It is therefore clear that these schools can do good to a larger extent than is being done just now. I am quite aware that the whole of the buildings used by the seventeen schools are not available for Ragged School purposes, as some are now rented to be used only at certain times, while in others the Ragged School is carried on merely by sufferance, having no claim on the building. Yet more can be done in the buildings held expressly for Ragged Schools; and to fill up that accommodation by bringing in the children attending no school whatever, is now the great question before us.

Mr. DIXON, of Cottage Place, was called upn, and said: All I can say is, that our schools are doing as much as possible. We possess the building at a rent, but only for the week days, and we have as many scholars as we can hold; in fact, rather more than we ought to have. We ought to be much obliged to the Committee for getting the statistics laid before us to-night; but I really did not suppose it was so bad as represented, and I do hope something will be done to mend matters. Such statements must be very harrowing to philanthropists, when they look at such large numbers attending no school, and growing up under a vicious street life. The school-room we use belongs to Surrey Chapel, and they use the same building for a Sunday School. I may add, that we find great difficulty in getting the funds needful to carry on present efforts. Subscribers leave the neighbourhood, and the persons carrying on the largest concerns live in the suburbs, and too often decline their help to the schools near where they make their money.

Mr. HYTCHE: In the next school, Broadwall, there is space for 100 on Sunday evening, when the school is altogether closed.

Mr. PEPPER (Broadwall): Through ill-health I have not done much, and am unprepared to go much into the subject. I can say, however, ours is only a week-night school (four evenings in the week), and that we have two paid teachers. The attendance in the winter months was about forty to fifty.

CHAIRMAN: Is it possible to get a Sunday Night School?

Mr. PEPPER: Yes, quite possible, and much needed; but it is teaching power that is required to do so.

Mr. GENT: Do you know whether any additional rent would be required for opening the school on Sunday?

Mr. PEPPER: I do not know; but I do know we are very poor, and, in fact, considerably in debt. But the great question is, How are we to get voluntary teachers if the children increase in numbers?

The CHAIRMAN inquired if any friend was present from Doughty Street. I see there is space for 700 children in the afternoon, at which time the school is entirely closed.

Mr. NICHOLLS (Doughty Street): We have a most comfortable, in fact, I may say almost palatial, structure. We have no afternoon school on the Sunday. It would be possible to open it if we could get the teaching power, as there are plenty of children in the neighbourhood to fill an Evening School.

Mr. GENT: Your Sunday Evening School has been attended by about 450 scholars, but the rooms will hold 600.

Mr. HYTCHE: Have you not a plan of shutting your doors at a certain time?

Mr. NICHOLLS: Yes, at half-past six o'clock. We strictly enjoin this, and if they come after that time, they are not admitted, as the school would be greatly disturbed, and we had better shut 100 out

than have 400 disturbed. We have a good full average attendance of teaching power.

CHAIRMAN: We will now proceed to the Nelson Street School.

A gentleman from Nelson Street School said: We can hold 200 to 300. In the winter evenings, however, the average is only forty, and in the summer months eighty; but we have a large number of boys who do not attend on the Sunday in the summer, as they earn money by donkey-driving; and we have a Roman Catholic School in the same locality. The Roman Catholics do all they can to prevent children attending our school; in fact, I am told they even pay the children to keep away from the Ragged School. We have plenty of real earnest Christian teachers, but the great difficulty is in getting children to come; and we have no difficulty with regard to funds, for we are well supplied. Although we have a good supply of teachers, we could not divide into two sections, and so open the school both afternoon and evening, as we are all engaged in Sunday Afternoon Schools elsewhere.

Mr. MOUNSTEPHEN: Do you not think it might be arranged to get your surplus strength, say a dozen teachers, out of this hot-bed of Roman Catholicism to a place near, where its virulence is not so great, and thus meet the necessity of opening a Sunday afternoon school?

A gentleman from Lyham Road, Brixton, replied that through the improvement of his locality there was not much need for a Ragged School, and the present one was quite sufficient. But he thought that a Sunday and week-night school was required in a part of Cold Harbour Lane, Camberwell. The population was dense and depraved. He would readily give his personal services were a Ragged School established there. Arrangements were made for the purpose of ascertaining what is needful to be done in the neighbourhood of Cold Harbour Lane.

The CHAIRMAN said the next school on the list was Robert Street.

Mr. DALLEN (Robert Street): The statement made by Mr. Gent forms a dark picture: it is a cloud upon us southerners. Let us hope, however, that there are very few so discouraging as Nelson Street. We here have our hands pretty full, but can take sixty or seventy more. We want, however, more agency, for I well know that there are hundreds in Lambeth in the streets who should be brought in. All teachers are employed late in the evening, but what we want is to get the children in. Our largest attendance on the Lord's day is 160, and 280 to the Day School. Some, however, of our day scholars go to Sunday Schools elsewhere. I do not, however, care so much about their not coming to us as long as I know it is to a Sabbath School somewhere to which they go.

Mr. GENT: Have you any means of testing whether the day scholars attend Sunday Schools?

Mr. WAY: We ask those who have attended to put up their hands, and when they have not, we have used means to induce Sunday attendance. Through this many have gone to neighbouring Sunday Schools as well as come to our own.

The CHAIRMAN: The last school in the list, from which there are representatives present, is Webber Row.

Mr. MCDOWELL: Four years ago the old school was ready to tumble down, but we have been enabled to erect a new school and a little chapel for the poor. In the past quarter the boys numbered 90 to 100, and at the Evening School, 50 to 60; girls, 69 to 74; and infants, 56 to 60, and the morning and afternoon Sunday School, 130. This is about the average. There had been some differences between the incumbent and teachers, and many teachers had gone away; but we have others raised up, and now our Sunday School is at work again. The Sunday Evening School will be again opened in the winter. There is certainly room for improvement in the number of attendances, but yet things are going on more satisfactorily.

The CHAIRMAN: We have now gone through the whole of the schools repre-

sented at this Conference, and have obtained important information. We must not rest until we get all our schools filled, and when no more children can be got in, for while so many are outside we ought to do something. I hope, therefore, we shall have your sympathies in this good cause.

Mr. MOUNSTEPHEN: I have felt great gratification at the proceedings, and do not remember a conference more thoroughly practical in character. I must say, however, I hope something will be done with regard to a neighbourhood at the end of Friar Street, where there is a nucleus of much evil. I get into a train at Blackfriars, and from that position am enabled to survey the wretched neighbourhood through which the line passes. In this journey I have witnessed the most shocking scenes of depraved women, thieves, and low characters in the spot I have mentioned which is really appalling.

The proceedings then concluded with prayer.

THE SECOND DISTRICT CONFERENCE was held at Magdalen Street School-room, Tooley Street, on June 24th, when delegates from twelve Ragged Schools in the eastern section of the southern district were present; Mr. CUTHBERTSON in the chair.

After prayer,

The CHAIRMAN said: I presume you have read the statement of the Ragged School Union Committee, and will not be surprised that they are anxious to extend operations by opening new schools where necessary, and in almost all cases where efficient they should begin with the Sunday Schools, which are the real means of getting at the poor children to lead them to Christ. It was, however, a matter of great grief to the Committee for the movement to be retrograde, for although there are large numbers of day and week and evening free schools, many are not half full on the Lord's day. We find there are some 30,000 more children than we have in school—a fact most distressing, and will not, I think, make you wonder at the Committee wanting to confer with you to see what can be done to meet this want. The work is not more than half done. The schools will take in thousands more, but we want also teaching agency. We are, therefore, trying to bring influence to work by these district conferences, and hope many friends are beginning to feel the necessity for more work. We have to ask you, under the circumstances, what is to be done? We have it in black and white what you are doing at your schools, but wish to hear from you something concerning them, and that means will be shown to-night how to get additional agency from churches. I am sorry to say, in many instances where there are preaching-stations they are conducted very feebly, when they should be full of life.

Mr. GENT, being called upon by the Chairman, stated, that finding, on coming to this meeting, I had an hour to spare, I perambulated this neighbourhood, and have certainly obtained some singular information, which confirms all that has been said about children not being at school. I went down Vine Street, in the middle of which I found a public dust-hole. In that repository of filth were ten boys. In conversation with them, I soon found them quite ready to talk, and more ready to beg for a copper. Before I left them I ascertained that five went to no school, and the other five were occasional attendants at the Roman Catholic School. On proceeding to a court without a thoroughfare, containing fifteen houses on each side, I found the women and children unusually numerous, but not a man to be seen. The women, in different houses and in different parts, were all agreed in sad complaints of the language used to them by the new landlord's agent, and hoping I might have some influence with the right parties to get their grievance redressed, became very communicative, and showed me the condition of their rooms. The whole place formed a fever-den, and I am not sur-

prised to find that fever is there often prevalent, and cholera occasionally visits it. The court was literally thronged with children, from the baby in arms to the age of eight years. Over 200 could be counted, but not without some difficulty, from their constant movements. From the information gathered from the women, I ascertained that a few of the children attended the Magdalen Street Ragged School, and a few more went to the Roman Catholic School, but the great bulk went to no school. What I have just witnessed I suppose may be seen by any person who will take the trouble to go, and if they possess the nerve required for the purpose, will, without much difficulty, gather facts, I doubt not, more painful than any I possess. The number of schools invited to send representatives to this Conference to-night is twenty-two. The accommodation they possess is for 4,000 scholars. In the Sunday Schools there are present about 1,700 scholars, in the Day Schools 2,600 scholars, and in the Evening Schools 1,100 scholars. The great question that requires our consideration this evening is, "What more can be done to bring into the existing schools larger numbers of the children than at present attend them?"

The CHAIRMAN: The first school is Bridge Street, Greenwich.

Mr. GEORGE POWER (Greenwich) said: In the Sunday morning we have about 100 children, and in the afternoon about 150. We have lately begun a service in the evening, at which about 50 parents and children attend. The Week Evening School was rather backward, although we have a good number of voluntary teachers. We might in both rooms hold 300, but we could take in 150 more; but our difficulty is with the children. They will not come in. We have even got handbills printed and distributed among them, hoping to bring them to the service.

Mr. HYTCHE: You have two rooms. Our desire is not only for an evening service for adults, but especially a Sunday Evening School for children. Would it not be well to try and open one?

Mr. POWER: I cannot say, but I will make the communication, and see what can be done.

A GENTLEMAN from Druid Street, Bermondsey, said: There is room for 150 more in the afternoon, and for 130 more in the evening; but our great want is teaching power. The majority of our teachers come from the Southwark Wesleyan Chapel. The Railway Company, however, I believe, are about to turn us out; and, if we can get a better school, I believe we shall get more teachers. The school I consider to be particularly unhealthy, being about seventy feet of railway arch, with a great want of proper ventilation.

Mr. PAYNE (Giffin Street) Deptford, said: Our school will hold about 180 children. In the evening we have only about one hundred present, but this arises from the want of teachers. We have something like thirty voluntary teachers, but so many fall short that we act on a system of relays. The children likewise do not know their teachers, as they so often change, which is a great evil.

The CHAIRMAN: The next school is Magdalen School, where there is no Sunday School.

The Rev. J. BOWSTEAD said: We do not interfere with the Roman Catholics, but have known children to have been taken away from our Day School. The room is the property of the Grammar School, to whom we pay a rental. I think it would be more respectful to the Governors to confer first with them as to whether they would permit a Sunday School to be held. He promised to lay the subject before them.

Mr. BELL, High Street, Peckham: The school holds about fifty, and the teachers are rather increasing in number. We now have enough, but were very short until recently. We are doing about as much as I think we can, as nearly all the teachers are engaged in Week-night Schools, while our financial condition is not so flourishing as could be desired,

being about £20 or £30 a year, with a great difficulty to get even that.

Mr. WILSON (Lansdowne Place) said: Our school will hold about 150 more, but there is some unpleasant legal business about the premises, which I hope will be soon settled, when we shall try to get them in. There is a space to build a gallery for fifty more, so that we could have about 200 more in than now.

Mr. BEADELL added: I hope those present will not go away with a wrong impression. We are in a transition state. The difficulty referred to is between the lawyers and the trustees as to some legal question.

Mr. DANIEL (Lower Park Road) said: We used to have a good attendance in the summer, but the great difficulty is, and always has been, the want of teachers, although our lady friends kept their promises better than the gentlemen. We have lately taken a house at Hatcham, and opened it as a Ragged School, in which we can have 100 to 120 children. The place we have taken is No. 4, Albert Terrace, which is a fine name, but it is a sad neighbourhood; plenty of roughs, navvies, and others, and a large number of Roman Catholics.

Mr. FARMER (Marigold Place) said: In the winter we generally have about 200 children on Sunday evening, with twenty-five teachers. The average attendance on week evenings is forty boys and sixty girls; the teachers about eight, being all voluntary. The school was only opened last July, and we have since had very good attendances; the Penny Bank now numbers 190 depositors. There is also a Day School under a mistress. We only want, therefore, a Sunday Afternoon School, but the difficulty is to obtain teachers; but we intend to open before long.

Mr. DUNN (Richmond Street) said: We have hoped in vain to build a new school, for the property round is in Chancery. A few days ago, however, a solicitor said something in reference to the matter, and I am in hopes that before long we shall be in a different position. At present we have two places. One will hold 200, and we have just opened a morning and afternoon ordinary Sunday School. It was a matter of merit to send from the Ragged to the Sunday School. The neighbourhood, I may add, abounds in sweeps, costermongers, and such like, and, owing to the size of the building, we are unable to admit scores of children. In the Penny Bank we have 310 depositors. I think, also, that a small fee day school might be opened with advantage. We have twenty-four voluntary teachers, but cannot depend upon their being regular.

A gentleman from Walker Street said: We are sorry to say, from want of space, we can only hold 100. The building is a four-roomed house, two rooms being thrown into one. It is very unhealthy for children, especially in the evening. If we had a larger building we could do much more. While we also have not sufficient teachers, one evil is, being obliged to have the infants in the same place, for many older ones do not like coming amongst them; the best plan being, if there is room, to divide them. As far as we are concerned we are doing all we can. There is a space of ground behind, which might be built on, with the view to extension, which has been talked about. At present if we had more teachers I do not know where we should be able to put them. The difficulty is also one of tenure, not only of money.

Mr. HADLAND said: Being an observer of Sunday Evening Schools for several years, I do not think the present results at all satisfactory; but the question is, how to get a larger number to attend, and how to extend the schools. The fault remains in many cases with us. If teachers stay away, write to them, and not allow them to slip away. Another thing is, scarcely any scholar becomes a teacher, which would make us, as far as teaching is concerned, self-supporting, even if out of 600 we got sixteen or twenty. The schools, again, are too isolated: and why is it that we do not have more meetings, and more harmony and

union among us? We could then have district praying together; we could learn each other's wants, whether for teachers for repairs, or for money. A school last Christmas was given up, but some friends heard of it, and after three weeks twenty-seven teachers had offered their services to re-open and conduct it. We keep finding fault, but I ask, can ladies be expected to teach in some of the rooms? No; health would not permit of it. I long to see a fund raised for a new school in Walworth fit for use. I am glad to see the Committee entering on and carrying out the present movement, which I think will result in great good.

Mr. DANIEL: I know of some scholars from the winter classes who, learning their alphabet ten years ago, have now become teachers.

The CHAIRMAN: I also know several, and seeing it supports the views of Mr. Hadfield, am glad it has been referred to.

Mr. HYTCHE: I know that we have 200 voluntary teachers who were formerly scholars. Some of these are the ablest we possess; and manage the refractory scholars remarkably well.

Mr. DAY (of Carr Street) said: I did not come to speak but to learn. I do grumble, however, that in our school, after fifteen years' hard labour, I do not find one teacher there who was brought up in our school. Mr. Spurgeon certainly spoke rightly when he said, "You do not believe in your work, and hence there are no fruits." There are 30,000 outside not under any religious influence, and there was a great lack of agency. We want preachers — men of tact, not the dandy parson, who speaks all pretty words, or a whipper-snapper—we want the man of sense who can turn everything to proper account. In our place I am sure we could get more in, but space will not permit it. As it is we have to get 500 in a small space, and to turn sometimes a hundred away.

The CHAIRMAN: We met to deliberate, and I think we have gained a deal of information. We evidently want more labourers, as there should be more in the schools. The Committee of the Union are deeply anxious about this matter, and they feel their responsibility. I am quite sure they will do everything in their power, but it can only be done by your full co-operation.

The meeting concluded by prayer.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. DR. GUTHRIE.

IN our last Number we called attention to the retirement of our esteemed friend Dr. Guthrie from ministerial duties, in consequence of failing health; since which we have been informed that, on the 27th May last a meeting was held in the city chambers of Edinburgh, the Lord Provost in the chair, at which Sheriff Napier moved:—"That as the Rev. Dr. Guthrie has, under medical advice, been compelled to retire from all public duties, this opportunity shall be taken of presenting to him a Testimonial in acknowledgment of his personal worth and public services as a large-hearted Christian philanthrophist, and for this purpose contributions should now be raised to constitute a capital sum, to be invested for behoof of himself and his family." This motion on being seconded was unanimously adopted.

A very influential Committee has been appointed to give effect to this resolution, and from the advertisement in this Number it will be seen that they have met with kind responses, but which it is hoped will be speedily and more numerously responded to, as it is desirable that the present movement should be completed with the utmost promptitude.

The Teachers' Column.

THE CLAY, THE PLASTER, AND THE MARBLE.

At Rome I visited the studio of Bartholomew of Hartford. He showed me many marvels of art, amongst them the repentant Eve, which made me both proud of my countryman, and surprised that he was not better known. In the outer apartment were many pieces of statuary, finished. Not far from these were workmen engaged in chipping the marble from blocks, in careful imitation of models placed before them. After examining what was to be seen here, we passed into a smaller room within. About it were disposed many models in plaster. But in the centre was one, still incomplete, in clay. On this the sculptor had been engaged when called out to meet me; and while talking about it he made two or three changes in its details, in a moment, with his fingers. The clay was soft, so soft that it barely held together on the inner frame to which it adhered. The slightest touch indented it.

The statue was of Washington, and since that I have seen it in marble in the chief street of the city of Baltimore.

The process of the sculptor is this: first the clay, then the plaster, and then the marble. In the clay a change may be made with the greatest ease in the briefest period. If the plaster does not suit, you may break it in pieces and get a new mould from the clay. But when once the statue has been put into marble it endures. At Rome you see many things in marble older that 2,000 years. In plaster or clay, not one.

What lessons come from the clay, the plaster, and the marble! Parent and Sabbath School teacher, and minister of Christ, what lessons to you! Childhood is the soft clay; youth, the plaster which is moulded on it; and mature age—and what is *beyond* it—the enduring MARBLE, shaped from the plaster and the clay. When I saw that statue in stone, with the swelling waters of the Atlantic between it and the spot where it was born in *clay*, I had a look into eternity. All there was fixed which here is facile. All there was *done* which here is *doing*. O sculptor in immortality! look well to the *moulding* of that which, when once it has passed from thy hands, thou canst change no more for ever! Look well to that which shall endure to ETERNITY! Mould not out of thine own heart or intellect, but after CHRIST! Remember the clay, the *plaster*, and the MARBLE!

Notices of Meetings.

PERKINS'S RENTS AND DUCK LANE, WESTMINSTER.

THE seventh annual meeting was held in the school-room on June 15th. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided, and was supported by the Marquis of Westminster.

The proceedings having been opened with a hymn and prayer, the noble Chairman presented prizes of various sums of money to eleven boys and girls for good conduct in their situations, three lads receiving a handsome book, the Bible Cyclopædia, for having retained the situations in which they were first placed above five years. As they are seventeen years of age, and are earning good wages, they may be considered as fairly started in life.

A brief Report was read by the Treasurer, from which it appeared that the number of children attending the schools is 255, of which 115 were girls, 90 boys, and 50 infants. There had been great sickness and mortality, eleven children having died out of the Infants' Gallery, and two boys. This was partly attributable to the overcrowding in the houses, in consequence of so many having been removed for railways and improvements, raising the rents excessively: two small rooms in Duck Lane—one, the bedroom, without any grate—letting for 5s. 6d. a week. The attendance at the Night and Sunday Schools could be greatly increased if more voluntary help could be obtained. Ten girls and eight boys had gone to service, fourteen girls and boys to various employments, seven boys have entered the Shoe-black Societies (red and purple), and one boy has been placed in a refuge; *all* are doing well. £22 13s. 9d. had been deposited in the Clothing Club.

The Band of Hope numbers nearly 500 members, with 142 depositors in the Penny Bank: amount paid in £44 8s. 9d. The Mothers' Meeting numbers nearly 90 members, the mothers of the children attending the School; 326 yards of flannel, 725 of calico, 382 of print, 72 of holland, and 67 yards of linsey, &c., had been supplied to them during the year, and chiefly made up at the meetings, fourpence in the shilling being allowed, and all the thread, needles, tape, &c., furnished gratuitously. The Club and Reading-room in Duck Lane, with the various societies carried on there by the men themselves, were prospering. The building was enlarged a second time in November last at a cost of £570, the whole of which had just been paid through the kindness of many friends, Lord Westminster having contributed £150. Mr. George Blaby, of the Band of Hope Union, had continued his labours as temperance missionary and visitor with encouraging results; during the past six months he has paid over 1,500 visits, conversed with above 600 persons in the different lodging-houses, many of whom have been induced to attend the meetings and lectures, distributed over 1,000 tracts, attended twenty-two weekly prayer-meetings, and addressed the children and parents on many occasions. He has visited many sick and dying persons, whom he has had the privilege of directing to the throne of grace and to Him whose blood cleanseth from all sin. He had gone from one end of the district to the other without the slightest annoyance, and by many his visits were looked forward to with real pleasure. A very small balance remained in hand, scarcely sufficient to meet the approaching quarter's demands.

After the reading of the report, Mr. W. H. Miller, of Lambeth, addressed the children in a very effective and impressive manner, and a blind member of the Duck Lane Club, Edwin Bayliss, in a simple, but really eloquent manner, dwelt upon the value of these Schools, the Reading-room, and the Mothers' Meetings, which had done so much to promote the welfare of the neighbourhood.

The Rev. Mr. Wright moved the adoption of the Report.

The Marquis of Westminster, in seconding the resolution, expressed the great satisfaction which he felt at the success of all the efforts. He had also to thank the children for the nice pieces of needlework they had forwarded to Lady Westminster, and observed that the use of the needle was an admirable adjunct to the education of female children.

The Earl of Shaftesbury, who had to leave, commented on various parts of the Report, which showed the great success that had attended these efforts. They should be grateful to Almighty God for having put it into the minds of a few energetic persons to establish these Ragged Schools, which had aided in improving the humbler classes of society amidst a population of 3,200,000 persons. He was going in a few days to distribute a number of prizes to mothers in the neighbourhood of Bloomsbury for clean and tidy rooms, and hoped to be called on to do the same next year in West-

minster. He had had a long acquaintance with that district, and mentioned an interesting case of a child whom he had met with in Pye Street and placed in the Ragged School seventeen years ago; she had emigrated, behaved so well that she married her master's son, and was now one of the richest ladies in Australia. The noble Chairman having left the meeting, the chair was taken by Mr. Deputy Judge Payne, who said he appeared there that evening as a D.D., not a Doctor of Divinity, but as being "dashingly dressed" and "doubly decorated," for as he had to meet noble marquises and earls, he thought he could not do better than appear in his "One Tun" shirt, and his "Fitzroy" waistcoat, both of which had been presented to him by the girls of both these Ragged Schools. He advised them to "hold tight" the excellent characters so many of them had obtained, and concluded with an amusing tail-piece, No. 1,997.

Seven years have pass'd since first we met
Here in our lov'd employ,
Resolv'd from Satan's grasp to get
Each ragged girl and boy.

And now we say with heart and lip,
While gazing on this scene,
The time of our *apprenticeship*
A pleasant time has been.

For COOPER gain'd a lasting fame,
When, through her gentle rule,
The "One Tun" *public-house* became
The "One Tun" *Ragged School!*

And working men, and women, too,
Have done the best they can
To cheer her on and help her through,
And aid each useful plan.

Without *her* counsels and her cares
They would have gone astray;
And, but for friendly help like *theirs*,
She must have given way.

But both combin'd have form'd a scheme
Which well supplies their needs,
And makes the *Devil's Acre* teem
With *fruit* instead of *weeds!*

Great men in noble acts concur,
And with success are crown'd;
Since *Shaftesbury in* Westminster,
With Westminster is found!

And now to great, as well as small,
I say—my ditty o'er—
Long life to each, *long* life to all,
E'en life for *evermore!*

June 15, 1864. J. P.

The proceedings were terminated with the Doxology and the Benediction.

LAMB AND FLAG.

THE nineteenth annual meeting of these schools was held in Amwell Street Schoolrooms. The Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair.

The meeting was opened by prayer.

After which the Annual Report was read by Mr. Watts, hon. sec., of which the following is an abstract:—In the Girls' School sixty new pupils have been received during the year. The Infant School continues prosperous; the Boys' School is equally prosperous, and the Committee are greatly thankful for the taste for good reading which they evince. The Evening School numbers—girls 90, boys 65. These classes are largely aided by honorary teachers, and they are attended by many young children who are unable to attend the Day School from being at work. The average attendance at the Sabbath School—morning 50, afternoon 264, evening 97. So prosperous is this school, that another room has been engaged for the Infant School, thereby making extra accommodation for the girls. The Mothers' Meeting has been very successful, and the co-operation of ladies is earnestly desired. The Girls' Sewing Class, the Maternal and Relief Society, and Clothing Fund, are all being well developed. In the latter the depositors were 120; amount deposited, £56 18s. 11½d.; premiums added, £11 14s. 6d. During the year they distributed 351 new garments, and 96 pairs of boots and shoes; and would be glad to receive donations of left-off clothing. Several other matters were declared to have passed a successful year. Total balance in hand, 9s.

The Earl of Shaftesbury said he must begin, like the Report, by saying time flies, for he had little time to spare. He heard by the Report that they only had 9s. in hand. He hoped they would not be discouraged by such a low financial condition. He remembered that last year the Ragged School Union had 6s., and a special appeal was made, and the public

kindly responded, and within a few weeks there was no less than £3,000 to their account. Then why should they be discouraged, or why should they not make an equally successful effort? They had humanity on their side, were well known to the public, and their successes were in the mouths of all philanthropic London. They seemed to dislike the name of Ragged School, as not comprehensive enough. When he heard of the many branches that were conducted with such success in connection with these schools he was disposed to call it a university. The noble earl referred to the many features of the Ragged School, and most emphatically commended treats, flower-shows, and such-like recreations. In spite of the enormous wealth of the country, and the fact that there never was a time when the great masses of the people were so open to good influences, there were no less, he believed, than 30,000 children in London who were unable to put their miserable selves into Ragged Schools. Only a few weeks ago he was near the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools, with others, examining the poor tenements around the neighbourhood. In spite of the horrible condition in which he found many of the houses, they were generally much better than they were fifteen or twenty years ago; and in many houses he saw innumerable instances of tidiness, and a desire to make their wretched habitations as decent as possible. He maintained that a great deal of the drunkenness was the result of the great neglect of domiciliary cleanliness, and strongly advised the attention of the officers of these schools to the improvement of the dwellings of the poor. The noble lord wished them God-speed in their labours, and resumed his seat amid great applause.

The noble Chairman then presented prizes to fourteen children. He then left the meeting, amidst the cheers of the audience, to meet a pressing engagement.

Mr. Assistant-Judge Bodkin then took the chair, and after expressing his confidence in the good effects of the schools, said that from his position he was able to pass an opinion upon the growth and decrease of juvenile crime. Of late he had observed, and those engaged in the police-courts in London would support him, that juvenile crime had greatly lessened. Under these circumstances, he had always felt it a pleasure to do everything in his power to aid such a movement.

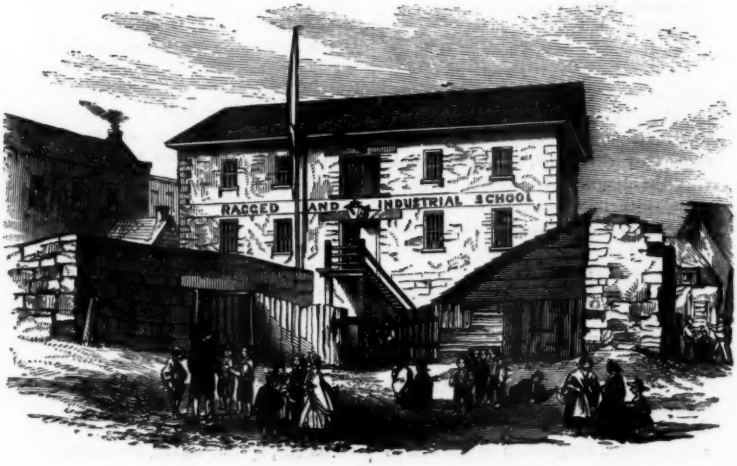
Addresses were delivered by the Rev. F. Tucker, Rev. T. Nolan, Rev. J. B. Owen, Mr. Payne, and others.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

THE Annual Examination of the scholars of the Ragged Schools took place April 27th, 1864, in the Sussex Street School. The three schools—in Sussex Street, in Globe Street, and at the Glebe—contain together upwards of 400 children; of these about 250 were present, the remainder being in situations, which prevented their attending. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Young had promised to be present, but, owing we believe to some misunderstanding as to the time, they did not arrive until an hour after the time advertised, and it was thought better not to delay the proceedings. A considerable number of visitors were present, amongst whom were Mr. Sutherland, M.L.A., the Rev. W. Allworth, the Rev. R. W. Vanderkiste, the Rev. S. Humphries, Mr. Joy, and several of the ladies who are accustomed to assist in the schools. After some pieces had been sung by the children, prayer was offered by the Rev. S. Humphries. Miss Danne, the teacher of the girls, then asked the scholars a number of questions in Scripture history; the answers, which were given promptly and simultaneously by the greater number of the children, showed a very fair acquaintance with the leading facts of the Bible narrative. At the conclusion of the examination, the Rev. Mr. Vanderkiste complimented the children on their answers, and told them that at their age he could not have answered better himself. After the children had again sung, they were examined in Australian geography and in arithmetic, by Mr. Danne, the teacher of

the boys. The replies were extremely creditable. At this stage of the proceedings the children were much gratified at seeing an opening made in the centre of the ceiling, through which was let down a very pretty device, the top of which was ornamented with flags, and the lower part consisting of rings of coloured packets of sweetmeats. Some of the visitors then proceeded to examine specimens of the needlework done by the girls, and it was mentioned that upon the boys being sent up to situations in the interior they were provided with articles of clothing made in the school. The children's copy-books were also examined, some of which showed that considerable proficiency had been attained. Soon afterwards his Excellency and Lady Young arrived, and were conducted by Mr. Joy to raised seats in the centre of the room. Mr. Joy then stated a few particulars respecting the character and condition of the school. His Excellency briefly addressed the audience. He said he was very glad to see so large an attendance of children, and he was also glad to hear that during the past half-year their attendance had been very regular, and that they had generally shown much diligence and attention to their studies. He hoped that this would be continued in the future, and that the children would reap all the benefits which were calculated to be reaped from schools of this kind, and that by so doing they would fulfil the expectations of those benevolent persons who had interested themselves in getting up the schools. The children to whom prizes had been awarded then came forward in turn, and received from the hands of Lady Young entertaining books or work-boxes. Some small vases that had been modelled in pipe-clay by the boys were then submitted to Lady Young for her inspection, and the modellers of the two that were considered the best were called up and commended by her Ladyship for their skill. Another piece having been sung by the children, they joined in the National Anthem, and in cheers for the Governor and Lady Young, who thereupon retired from the school. A distribution of sweetmeats amongst the children brought the interesting proceedings to a close.

The following illustration is taken from a photograph of Sussex Street Ragged Schools, Sydney.



RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

OFFICE—1, EXETER HALL.

PRESIDENT.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.
TREASURER.—R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq., Lombard Street, E.C.
HON. SEC.—MR. W. LOCKE. HON. SOLICITOR.—E. JENNINGS, Esq.
SECRETARY.—MR. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.
COLLECTOR.—MR. WILLIAM A. BLAKE, 38, South Bank, N.W.
BANKERS.—MESSRS. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & CO., 54, Lombard Street.

The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union, from the 20th of June to the 20th of July, 1864:—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Allcock, Mr. & Mrs.	2	2	0
An Irish Lady	1	0	0
Anonymous	0	5	0
A Lady at Brighton	100	0	0
Barker, Master W.	0	10	6
Isanbury, Sir C. J. F.	2	2	0
Caulfield, Rev. E. W.	1	1	0
C. E. D.	0	2	6
Child, Mr. James	0	10	0
Church, Mr. J.	0	10	0
Collin, Miss	1	1	0
Dixon, Rev. A.	10	0	0
Dixon, Mrs.	2	0	0
Dyer, Mrs.	4	0	0
E. A.	1	0	0
E. H. D. B.	10	0	0
Godfrey, Mr. W. W.	0	10	0
Harvey, Miss H.	4	0	0
Henvaux, Mrs. S. M.	1	1	0
Horne, Dr.	1	1	0
Howard, Legacy of the late Miss S., per C. Shore, Esq., £500 (less duty £50)	450	0	0
Kinnaird, Lord	2	0	0
Lee, John, Esq.	5	0	0
Lister, Mrs.	0	10	0
Matthias, Mr. J.	1	1	0
Minshull, Mr. G.	1	1	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Richards, Mrs. J. S.	1	1	0
Rowley, Sir R.	2	2	0
Say, Major H. H.	2	0	0
Scott, Sept., Esq.	10	0	0
Scott, Miss	2	0	0
Shepherd, Rev. R.	0	5	0
Smith, C. W., Esq.	1	0	0
St. Clair, Mrs. General	2	0	0
Street, Mrs. J. (box)	0	10	6
Tully, W., Esq.	1	0	0
Whitlaw, Mrs. J.	1	0	0

Excursion Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Alexander, J. W., Esq.	5	0	0
Allcock, Mr. & Mrs.	1	0	0
Baker, Mrs.	0	10	0
Brettell, T., Esq.	1	1	0
Ellice, W., Esq.	5	0	0
Lancaster, Miss	1	0	0
Maxwell, W. J., Esq.	1	1	0
Scott, S., Esq.	10	0	0
Scott, Miss	1	0	0
S. E. G.	0	5	0

School Fund.

Cripples' Home.

Lister, Miss	0	10	0

Lamb and Flag.

H.	0	1	0
Sale of Work, per Miss Hawkins	1	2	6
Scott, Miss	0	10	0

Perkins' Rents Excursion.

Bodkin, W. H., Esq.	0	10	0
Bodkin, Miss	0	10	0

St. Giles's.

Godfrey, Mr. W. W.	0	10	0
Sale of Work, per Miss Hawkins	1	0	0

Reg Brigade.

Burton, Miss	0	10	0

Welbeck Row.

Money, Lady	2	0	0

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